

SECRET*P/11/11*
*Chroxx***ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP**Date **FBIS-0385/86**
5 December 1986**TO: (Name, office symbol, room number,
building, Agency/Post)****Initials****Date****1.** Associate Deputy Director for**2.** Science and Technology**3.** Room 6E45, Headquarters**4.****5.**

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
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SECRET



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Friday - 5 Dec

Office of the Director

Jim

Per our discussion
yesterday, this is
the latest from Panama.

You can feel the frustration
in Zimmer's cable.



Mr. James V. Hirsch
Associate Deputy Director for Science and Technology

25X1

SECRET

S E C R E T 042011Z DEC 86 STAFF

CITE FBIS/PANAMA CITY 10347

TO: PRIORITY FBIS.

SUBJECT: FREQUENCY REQUESTS UPDATE

REF: FBIS/PANAMA CITY 10187

25X1

1. WE HAVE A LITTLE MOVEMENT ON OUR REQUESTS, BUT I AM NOT CERTAIN IF IT IS FORWARD. ON 1 DEC, AFTER WE HEARD NOTHING FROM THE EMBASSY ON ITS PLANNED COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED IN PARA 3 OF REF, I FORMALLY REQUESTED THAT SOUTHCOM'S TREATY AFFAIRS OFFICE SUBMIT OUR FREQUENCY REQUESTS TO THE JOINT MILITARY COMMITTEE. OUR PURPOSE WAS EITHER TO MOVE THIS ISSUE FORWARD THRU ANOTHER CHANNEL OR GALVANIZE THE EMBASSY INTO ACTION. THE LATTER OCCURRED WHEN THE MILITARY CALLED THE EMBASSY TO ADVISE THEM THAT FBIS WISHED THE MATTER PUT INTO THEIR CHANNELS. THE AMBASSADOR, DURING A MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON 2 DEC, RAISED OUR CASE AS PART OF GENERAL DISCUSSION ON ISSUES CURRENTLY STRAINING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED

SURPRISE THAT ISSUE WAS STILL UNRESOLVED AND HIS PEOPLE HAD BEEN GIVING EMBASSY THE RUNAROUND. ON 3 DEC DCM AND ECON COUNSELOR MET WITH ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN POLICY, SUPPOSEDLY THE NUMBER THREE MAN IN THE MFA, FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION. HE IS REGARDED BY MOST EMBASSY OFFICERS AS INEFFECTIVE AND HE BEGAN MEETING BY AGAIN BEING EVASIVE, INDICATING THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN WHAT HE WAS SAYING. DCM REPORTEDLY PERSISTED IN PRESSING CASE, THE UPSHOT BEING THE EMBASSY WAS TOLD IT SHOULD SUBMIT ANOTHER NOTE SUPPLYING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON OUR ORIGINAL REQUEST. THE NOTE WAS DRAFTED LAST NIGHT AND I SIGNED OFF ON IT THIS MORNING. THE GIST IS THAT APPROVING THIS REQUEST TO MODERNIZE THE EMBASSY'S COMMUNICATIONS LINKS WITH FBIS WILL BENEFIT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PANAMA. IT WILL IN NO WAY CHANGE OUR OPERATIONAL STATUS QUO AND IT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO PROVIDE OUR FILE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IT IS ALSO NOTED THAT FBIS' CONTINUED EXISTENCE, AND THAT OF THE 50 LOCAL EMPLOYEES, DEPENDS ON BEING ABLE TO MODERNIZE ITS OPERATIONS. THE NOTE PERTAINS ONLY TO OUR MICROWAVE REQUEST.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 2 FBIS/PANAMA CITY 10347 S E C R E T

2. I MET WITH THE DEC 4 DEC TO EMPHASIZE THAT TIME WAS STILL OF THE ESSENCE AND TO SEEK ASSURANCES THAT WE WERE NOT ENTERING INTO ANOTHER FRUITLESS DANCE. HE COULD NOT PROVIDE SUCH ASSURANCES, BUT STRESSED THAT HE AND THE AMBASSADOR WERE DETERMINED TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT. HE OUTLINED THE ACTIONS THEY PLANNED, ALL DESIGNED TO HAVE AN ANSWER BY THE HOLIDAYS. I EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THIS NEW CONCERTED EFFORT, BUT ALSO NOTED THAT IF WE STILL HAVE NO PROGRESS AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, FBIS WILL AGAIN LOOK TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

3. WE ARE NOW WALKING A FINE LINE WITH EMBASSY ON WHO MAKES THE DECISION TO CUT BAIT AND WHEN. AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS EXERCISE THE EMBASSY POSITION WAS THAT THEY WERE ACTING ACCORDING TO FBIS INSTRUCTIONS. BUT NOW THAT EMBASSY FACE IS AT STAKE THEY ARE BEING MORE AGGRESSIVE IN CALLING SHOTS. CURRENT POSITION IS THAT THE EMBASSY WILL DECIDE WHEN AND IF WE WILL SUBMIT THE REQUESTS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE. MY CURRENT POSITION IS THAT WE ARE ALL WORKING TOGETHER AND WE HOPE THE MATTER IS RESOLVED QUICKLY. BUT THE EMBASSY CANNOT EXPECT FBIS TO WAIT INDEFINITELY IF AN IMPASSE DEVELOPS AND WE THEREFORE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE INDEPENDENT ACTION IF NECESSARY.

4. I ALSO DISCUSSED WITH DCM WHETHER WE SHOULD INCLUDE A FRAF IN THE NEW NOTE ASKING ABOUT OUR INTERNET REQUEST. WE DECIDED AGAINST IT, AS WELL AS POSSIBLY SUBMITTING THE INTERNET REQUEST SEPARATELY TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE, BECAUSE IT MIGHT UNDERMINE THE LATEST NOTE. DCM BELIEVES THAT IF WE CAN GET THE GOVERNMENT TO VIEW THE MICROWAVE REQUEST IN TERMS OF A U.S. GOVERNMENT PROGRAM TO MODERNIZE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, THEN THIS WILL SET THE STATE FOR A FOLLOW-UP NOTE ON THE INTERNET FREQUENCY. IN THE MEANTIME, WHEN THE NEW MICROWAVE NOTE IS HANDED TO THE MFA, A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL INTERNET FREQUENCY REQUEST NOTE WILL BE UNOFFICIALLY HANDED TO THEM AT THE SAME TIME, WITH A REMINDER THAT THIS OTHER MATTER IS STILL PENDING. IF THAT DOESN'T JAR THINGS LOSE, THEN WE WILL RESORT TO THE FOLLOWUP NOTE.

5. I AM NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS FURTHER DELAY, BUT I FEEL WE HAVE NO CHOICE AT THE MOMENT. I SHALL KEEP PRESSING EMBASSY TO PRESS GOVERNMENT, AND LET UP HOPE WE HAVE A BREAKTHROUGH. IF NOT, I MAY REQUIRE HQS ASSISTANCE TO PRESSURE EMBASSY TO PUT THE MATTER INTO MILITARY CHANNELS.

6. LASTLY, I WANT TO ALERT YOU THAT THE QUESTION OF OUR MILITARY LOCATION IS STILL BUDBLING UNDER THE SURFACE, AT LEAST AT THE WORKING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 3 FBIS/PANAMA CITY 10347 S E C R E T
LEVELS OF SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICES. DCM NOTED THAT IN HIS MEETING AT
MFA, THE NUMBER THREE AGAIN NOTED THAT FBIS PRESENT LOCATION WAS
UNFORTUNATE, BUT ALSO ADDED THAT FBIS MAY IN FACT BE ASKED TO MOVE BY
THE GOVERNMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE PROBLEM IN ASSESSING THE DEGREE
OR IMMINENCE OF THIS THREAT IS THAT

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] IN THE MEANTIME, WE HAVE ADVISED THE EMBASSY ^{25X1}
WE STAND READY TO RECEIVE ANY AND ALL VISITORS AT THE BUREAU FOR ^{25X1}
THOROUGH BRIEFINGS SHOULD ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR STATUS OR WORK ARISE.
DECL OADR.
S E C R E T

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